

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-73 (canceled).

74. (currently amended) A connected assembly comprising:  
a first hollow profile (10) having a longitudinal axis A and comprising a profile channel (12), a longitudinal groove (20), an end face (14), and at least one undercut groove space (22) in the longitudinal groove (20);  
a second hollow profile (10) having a longitudinal axis A and comprising a profile channel (12), a longitudinal groove (20), an end face (14) and at least one undercut groove space (22) in the longitudinal groove (20); and  
~~connecting means~~ a connector for connecting the first hollow profile to the second hollow profile, the ~~connecting means~~ connector comprises  
(a) a socket profile (34) having a longitudinal axis (E) and comprising a baseplate (36) and a central head strip (38) on the baseplate (36) and made in one piece therewith, the length of the baseplate (36) is greater than that of central head strip (38) and forms at least one stepped face (35), and a central opening (42) extends through the baseplate (36) and central strip (38); and

(b) a screw element connecting member (50) comprising a rectangular socket strip (52) having projecting regions and a screw sleeve (54) on the rectangular socket strip (52) and made in one piece therewith, said rectangular socket strip (52) and screw sleeve (54) are provided with a through hole (60) which receives a screw (62); wherein the socket profile (34) is located on the end face (14) of the first hollow profile (10) and the rectangular socket strip (52) of the screw element (50) is screwed onto the stepped face (35) of the baseplate (36) of the socket profile (34) and the projecting regions of the rectangular socket strip (52) engage in the undercut groove space (22) of the second hollow profile (10) for clamping the first hollow profile (12) to the second hollow profile (10).

75. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 74, wherein the screw sleeve (54) has two corner edges (56) which are arranged diagonally and from which on either side a flat wall surface (55) extends as part of a sleeve wall (59), wherein the flat wall surface (55) merges with a cross-sectionally curved arc region (58) of the sleeve wall (59).

76. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 75, wherein the socket strip (52) has a longitudinal axis (E) which protrudes beyond the sleeve wall (59), wherein at least one corner region (53) of the socket strip (52) is arcuate in plan view.

77. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 76, wherein associated with the corner edge (56) of the sleeve wall (59) is a rounded corner region (53) of the socket strip (52).

78. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 74, wherein the corner edge (56) of the screw sleeve (54) extends from a longitudinal edge (56) of the socket strip (52).

79. (currently amended) Assembly according to claim 74, wherein the central opening (42) receives a screw member (44) arranged approximately centrally in head strip (38), the screw member (44) being capable of being fixed in the profile channel (12) of the first hollow profile (10) close to ~~its~~ the end face (14) of the first hollow profile (10).

80. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 74, wherein the stepped surface (35) of the socket profile (34, 34<sub>a</sub>) runs at a distance from the end face (14) of the first hollow profile (10) which corresponds to a height (h<sub>1</sub>) of an end (39) of the head strip (38).

81. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 74, wherein socket strip (52) has a longitudinal axis (F) in the inserted position and runs parallel to the longitudinal axis (A) of the hollow profile (10), and the socket strip (52) is arranged movably in the groove space.

82. (currently amended) Assembly according to claim 74, wherein for connecting the two hollow profiles (10) the undercut groove space (24) ~~of one~~ the first hollow profile (10) have ribs (18) which are held in contact with the end face (14) of the ~~other~~

second hollow profile, and in the connecting position a longitudinal axis (F) of the socket strip (52) stands transversely to the longitudinal axis (A) of the second hollow profile (10).

83. (currently amended) Assembly according to claim 74, wherein a sleeve (70, 70<sub>a</sub>, 70<sub>b</sub>) which can be inserted in the longitudinal groove (20) of the first hollow profile and has lateral outer ribs (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>b</sub>) which can be inserted in radial grooves (82) of the second hollow profile (10).

84. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 83, wherein a longitudinal section (73) of an interior (72) of the sleeve (70, 70<sub>a</sub>, 70<sub>b</sub>) is designed as a polygon cross-section.

85. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 84, wherein the outer rib (76, 76<sub>a</sub>), which is substantially triangular in cross-section at least in its free end region, merges by rib surfaces (78) with shaped channels (75) of a peripheral surface (74) of the sleeve (70).

86. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 84, wherein the outer rib (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>b</sub>) has at one end a side edge (79<sub>a</sub>) which forms an angle (t) of about 45° with a radial line (Q) passing approximately through the center of the outer rib.

87. (currently amended) Assembly according to claim 83, wherein at least three groups (80) of outer ribs (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>b</sub>) which are parallel to a center axis (M) of the sleeve (70, 70<sub>a</sub>, 70<sub>b</sub>) and which in the fastening position are associated with radial grooves (82), the radial grooves (82) being mounted in a bottom

(24) of the longitudinal groove (20) of the first hollow profile (10) as well as in facing surfaces of shaped ribs (18) which define the longitudinal groove at the side surface (16) of the first hollow profile.

88. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 87, wherein side edges (79<sub>a</sub>) of a group (80) of outer ribs (82) are aligned with each other parallel to the center axis (M).

89. (currently amended) Assembly according to claim 74, including a sleeve (70, 70<sub>a</sub>, 70<sub>b</sub>) which is inserted in the longitudinal groove (20) of the first hollow profile and provided with lateral outer ribs (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>b</sub>) which project from a peripheral surface (74) and can be inserted in radial grooves (82) of the first hollow profile (10) wherein associated with the sleeve (70, 70<sub>a</sub>, 70<sub>b</sub>) is a set screw (84, 85) which can be inserted in an interior (72) and on a screw head (86) of which is integrally formed a round shank (88), the round shank (88) merging with a coaxial screw shank (90) at a distance (z<sub>3</sub>) from the screw head (86).

90. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 89, wherein an outside diameter (q<sub>1</sub>) of the screw shank (90) is larger than an inside diameter (k<sub>1</sub>) of the sleeve interior (72).

91. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 89, wherein the interior (72) of the sleeve (70<sub>a</sub>, 70<sub>b</sub>) has a cylindrical section which is adjoined by a polygon cross-section (73<sub>a</sub>) of which parallel-axis edges are designed as notched channels (66).

92. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 89, wherein on the screw head (86) of the set screw (85) is integrally formed a shank (88) which is provided with a thread at a distance ( $z_3$ ) from the screw head.

93. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 92, wherein between the screw head (86) and the thread (90) extends a round section (89) of the shank (88), of which a length ( $z_3$ ) corresponds to about two-thirds of a length ( $z_1$ ) of the shank.

94. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 93, wherein an outside diameter ( $q_1$ ) of the thread (90) is larger than a diameter ( $k_4$ ) of an aperture (83) in a rear wall (94) of the sleeve, which rear wall (94) defines the sleeve interior (72) and has the shank (88) passing through it.

95. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 94, wherein the thread (90) on the shank (88) forms an annular edge (92) of the set screw (85) facing towards the screw head (86), as a stop member of which the companion part is the annular rear wall (94) of the sleeve, the set screw (85) being arranged axially slidably in the sleeve between its screw head (86) and the annular edge (92).

96. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 95, wherein when the screw head (86) of the set screw (85) abuts against the associated, outer sleeve edge ( $68_t$ ) of the sleeve, the thread (90) extends at the other end out of the sleeve (71) and/or in that a longitudinal section of the interior (72) of the sleeve is designed as a polygon cross-section ( $73_n$ ), in particular as a hexagon cross-section, and adjoins a cylindrical

section of the sleeve interior (72), the parallel-axis edges of the polygon cross-section (73<sub>n</sub>) preferably being designed as notched channels (66).

97. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 94, wherein the sleeve (71), at its end remote from the rear wall (94), is integrally formed an axial collar (96) within which the shank (88) is arranged slidably.

98. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 94, wherein a collar (96) with a peripheral surface (74) of the sleeve defines an annular zone (68) of the sleeve and a height (h<sub>3</sub>) of the collar (96) lengthens contact length (y<sub>3</sub>) between the sleeve and set screw (85).

99. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 83, wherein the outer rib (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>n</sub>), which is triangular in cross-section at least in its free end region, has lateral rib surfaces (78) which merge with shaped channels (75) in the peripheral surface (74) of the sleeve, the rib surfaces (78) merging with a rib apex (77<sub>n</sub>) which is designed as a cutting edge.

100. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 83, wherein the outer rib (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>n</sub>) at one end has a side edge (79<sub>a</sub>) which forms an angle (t) of about 45° with a radial line (Q) passing approximately through the enter of the outer rib, outer rib (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>n</sub>) being upset at its inclined side edge (79<sub>a</sub>).

101. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 97, wherein a plate-like, flat-cuboid body (81) at a side edge (79) of the outer rib (76<sub>n</sub>), the plate-like body (81) axially overlapping the outer ribs (76<sub>n</sub>) at their rib surface (78) remote from the collar (96) and/or the inclined side edge (79<sub>a</sub>) of the outer rib (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>n</sub>) forming a contact resistance between the sleeve (70, 70<sub>a</sub>, 70<sub>n</sub>) and the associated radial grooves (82).

102. (previously presented) Assembly according to claim 101, wherein at least three groups (80) of outer ribs (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>n</sub>) which are parallel to the center axis (M) of the sleeve and which in the fastening position are associated with radial grooves (82), the sides edges (79, 79<sub>a</sub>) of outer ribs (76, 76<sub>a</sub>, 76<sub>n</sub>) being aligned with each other parallel to the center axis (M).

103. (currently amended) Assembly according to claim 102, wherein the radial grooves (82) are mounted in the groove bottom (24) of the longitudinal groove (20) of the first hollow profile (10) as well as in facing surfaces of shaped ribs (18) which define the longitudinal groove at the a side surface (16) of the first hollow profile.